

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 204033
ORIGIN EA-12

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS
XMT AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 204033

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E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:PFOR, TW

SUBJECT:EA/ROC WEEKLY STATUS REPORT

1. TAIPEI WAITS APPREHENSIVELY

THE ROC IS AWAITING THE OUTCOME OF THE SECRETARY'S PEKING VISIT WITH APPREHENSION THAT HIS EXPLORATORY TALKS MAY LEAD RAPIDLY TO NORMALIZATION. TAIPEI PRESS PREDICTIONS THAT TALKS WILL FAIL BECAUSE OF THE PRC'S HARD-LINE INSISTENCE ON ITS THREE CONDITIONS REFLECT THE ROC'S HOPES BUT ALSO IMPLICITLY REMIND READERS THAT THESE CONDITIONS MAY BE ACCEPTED. WHILE EXPECTING THE WORST, THERE IS STILL HOPE THAT U.S. CONGRESSIONAL OR PUBLIC FACTORS WILL DELAY NORMALIZATION.

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IN GOVERNMENT MEETINGS AND PUBLIC STATEMENTS, PREMIER CHIANG CHING-KUO HAS ATTEMPTED TO SET A TONE OF RESOLUTE SELF-RELIANCE IN THE FACE OF IMPENDING ADVERSITY. HE MADE A WELL PUBLICIZED VISIT TO THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS FOR A FAVORABLE REPORT ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS IN AN ATTEMPT TO DIVERT PUBLIC ATTENTION TO MORE POSITIVE THEMES. IN THE SAME VEIN, THE PRESS HAS MADE MUCH OF THE

ANNIVERSARY THIS WEEK OF THE ROC SUCCESSFUL DEFENSE OF

KIMMEN IN 1958 AGAINST MASSIVE PRC FORCES QUOTE
WITHOUT A SINGLE AMERICAN SOLDIER TAKING PART DIRECTLY
UNQUOTE. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
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